

Library Bond Act Grant Applications - Cycle 1

Individual Application Summary

Project Name [Number]	Hercules Public Library 1018	Current Square Footage	0
Applicant	Hercules, City of	Project Square Footage	20,492
Operating Library Jurisdiction	Contra Costa County Library	Service Area Population:	19,488
Project Type	New Library	Anticipated Construction Start Date:	2/19/2004
Project Priority	1st	Total Project Amount	\$10,174,889
Joint Use Type	Joint Venture	State Grant Amount	\$6,177,681
Multipurpose?	NO		
Leased Site:	NO		

Bond Act Factors [California Code of Regulations Title 5, Section 19998 (a)]

	Rated	Other
Urban/Rural:		[see map]
Population Growth:		323%
Financial capacity of applicant to open and maintain operation of the library (new libraries only):		Yes
Age and Condition of Existing Library:	No existing library (= Outstanding)	
Inadequacy of the existing library in meeting needs of residents and the response of proposed project to meeting the needs:	Outstanding	
Plan of Service integrates appropriate technology:	Outstanding	
Appropriateness of Proposed Site:	Outstanding	
Overall Rating:		Outstanding

Summary of Review Panel Comments

Population Growth 322.6%

Age and Condition of Existing Facility There is no existing library.

Needs of Residents/Response of Proposed Project to Needs The needs assessment is very thorough and included a number of methods of gaining public input and analysis of other agencies and activities in the community, resulting in a clear understanding of the community's library needs and possibilities for partnerships. Needs of all residents, including K-12 students are addressed. However, only one grade of students (11th grade) was actually interviewed. Parents, county librarians, PTA board, and teachers represented the elementary, middle, and high school students. The hours of service are limited, at 35 hours per week. The space needs assessment references library plan of service and building program for details.

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The plan of service: Without an existing library in the community, this will be a library that focuses on providing basic library services, while emphasizing services to school age children. The Plan of Service ties directly to the Needs Assessment, then to the Building Program. Very well done. Goals, objectives, and service indicators are detailed enough to ensure that the specific clientele of the community is being served. Joint venture services of Homework Center/Computer Lab are addressed: volunteers will be recruited and trained; appropriate online homework assistance, curriculum-related software, Internet access is planned. The city will fund a position to supervise the Homework/Computer Center during the afternoon hours.

The building program: The building program follows the plan of service and carefully documents the space needs. A Homework Center and Young Adult area are separate rooms, adjacent to each other.

The conceptual plans adequately incorporate the requirements of the building program.

Joint use agreement: Homework Center/Computer Center County will fund library staffing; City will fund Homework Center/Computer Center staff person to supervise Center in the afternoons. School district will fund its own staff to participate and train volunteers. Elements of Center are well defined and meet needs identified. This is a mutually beneficial agreement, with a quarterly monitoring and evaluation of the program. The only shortcoming is the limited hours of operation.

Plan of Service Integrates Appropriate Technology An understanding of the need for technology to assist in solving library service needs is demonstrated throughout the planning documents. Specific technology uses include: videoconferencing; laptop checkout; computer software for K-12; 24/7 reference; Internet access; self-checkout; digital materials flow management system.

Appropriateness of Proposed Site The site is located near a BART station and Interstate 80, important because a high percentage of Hercules residents are commuters. It is also located adjacent to a senior center and within 1/4 mile of 8 public transit stops. A new walkway is planned that will connect the library to "miles of trails" that can be used by bicyclists and pedestrians.

Financial Capacity The applicant has committed to the on-going operation of the completed library.